

QUESTION RE "XMAS"
by Willis E. Bishop

A question was asked about "Xmas."

I used to hear that this was the world's way of removing Christ from Christmas, and perhaps the world is glad to do that. But that is not the full explanation of it.

In the dictionary, you find that one of the definitions for "X" is Christ or Christian. Toward the end of the Greek alphabet there is the letter "chi" (our "X") which stands in pronunciation for "ch," and it has become an abbreviation for "Christ." So actually Xmas is really Christmas, and I don't believe it was begun to take Christ out of Christmas.

The Greek word for Christ is "Christos," and that is sometimes abbreviated in the Lexicon by "chi." As far as I know, there is no abbreviation of this kind in the New Testament. Some manuscripts may do that, but I do not have information on this. Perhaps for us, as Christians, it is better to spell it out. This "chi" is used in Greek letters for fraternities and sororities, but there it does not stand for Christ.

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